

To the Energy Committee:

Thank you for permitting me to testify on HB5427 on line, as I am unavailable to appear in person at the hearing on this bill March 1st.

I live in Salem, and grew up in this farming community. As is common in this area, family residential properties surround what was once a family dairy farm here. Our farm has large barns with roofs are ideal for solar collectors, and in fact solar collectors have been installed. But only for the farm. There is room for a lot more collectors on these barns.

The neighboring properties do not have good locations for use of solar power. They would like to be able to expand the farm installation, and share the power. But they are not allowed to do so without enabling legislation.

HB5427 should be amended to permit neighborhood sharing throughout the State.

It is unconscionable in view of climate change that current laws prohibit such local sharing. Not only is it more cost-effective for the energy needs of the consuming public, but sharing from local sites provides a more efficient production of electrical energy, since it avoids transmission losses when electricity does not have to travel such long distances to our rural areas when the sun is shining.

And shared solar power provides more efficiency while diminishing the need for dirty fuels that contribute to greenhouse gas emissions, polluting our air especially during our hottest weather.

Most areas of the State do not provide on-site solar energy production, but have appropriate areas nearby that can share this free source of power with minimal additional connection costs. So shared solar will multiply the expansion of solar energy production, if enabled.

Is CT serious about climate change?

Is it serious about consumer savings?

Is it serious about energy efficiency?

Is it serious about providing local jobs in the solar energy industry?

HB5427 should be amended to enable the answer to the questions to be answered "YES, YES, YES and YES!" This change is so necessary as to be inevitable. Why not get it done now?

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